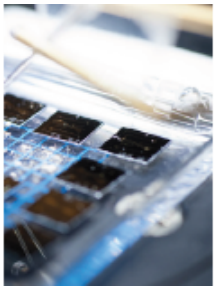
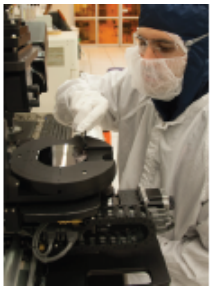
MEP National Network™

WISCONSIN


WISCONSIN CENTER FOR MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTIVITY (WCMP)

The Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing and Productivity (WCMP) collaborates with the UW Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center (MOC) and the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WMEP) to help Wisconsin manufacturers grow their businesses and become more profitable. WCMP enhances the success of Wisconsin's small to midsize manufacturers by providing expert and accessible services in the areas of growth and innovation, continuous improvement, training, export assistance, supply chain management and profitable sustainability. WCMP is a strong advocate for manufacturers in Wisconsin and champions Wisconsin manufacturing at a national level. A strong supporter of the state's small and midsize manufacturers, WCMP strives to transform industry through consulting services, industry studies, seminars, publications and annual Manufacturing Matters! and Manufacturing Advantage conferences.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2020

$239.8 Million
Total Increased/Retained Sales

1,387
Total Increased/Retained Jobs

$94.9 Million
New Client Investments

$26.6 Million
Cost Savings

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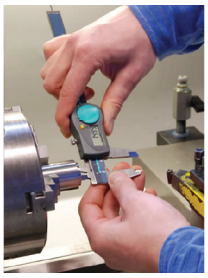
WISCONSIN CENTER FOR MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTIVITY

MEP National Network™

WISCONSIN SUCCESS STORY

LEAN KAIZEN TRANSFORMS SHIPPING OPERATIONS AT WISCONSIN THREAD ROLLING COMPANY



ABOUT ROLLED THREADS UNLIMITED LLC. Founded in 1985, Rolled Threads produces fully threaded bar, custom machined parts, fully threaded and double ended studs, bolts, lead screws and specialty fasteners at its plant in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Since 2001, the company has been owned by F. W. Ladky Associates, a family owned business founded in 1919 that specializes in the sale of steel products. Rolled Threads has 30 employees, including five in the shipping area.

THE CHALLENGE. Inefficiencies and a lack of organization in the company's shipping area had caused delays in the delivery of customers' orders. The shipping area lagged the continuous improvement efforts in other areas of the plant. The packaging process can be very costly and time consuming, as well as labor-intensive and requiring a large amount of materials. Production runs can involve thousands of pieces that must then be packaged and shipped to the customer in 50 to 100 pieces per box, which can take several days to pack.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. WMEP Manufacturing Solutions led a kaizen event in Rolled Threads' shipping area, which led to changes that improved efficiency in the shipping process. Rolled Threads updated its packaging process, simplified workflow and switched materials in order to strengthen the packages in which it ships customers' orders. Improvements to streamline the shipping station include a newly dedicated desktop workstation, documented packaging instructions, labeling capabilities, a highly visible shipping board to prioritize orders and the reclamation of overstock shelving. Rolled Threads has also reorganized and streamlined its inspection process.

"We needed a fresh pair of eyes to give us a few ideas. The WMEP consultant gave us a few suggestions and my guys and I also came up with ideas of our own. We've changed a lot of things. Some changes are very small. Some is just the appearance of the shipping area. It looks so much better. We are very organized now."

-John Radi, Shipping & Receiving Manager

RESULTS

- Workflow changes have boosted Rolled Threads' productivity and efficiency in its shipping department
- A $20,000 investment for has improved top-line capacity by 20 percent
- The need to hire another employee was avoided saving the company $60,000 in pay and benefits
- Eliminated troublesome bottlenecks in the plant
- Successful changes in the shipping department spread to other areas of Rolled Threads' value steam

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